

Southwest Harbor Conservation Commission

Minutes of September 11, 2019 meeting

In attendance: Ann Ratcliff, Jane Ayres, Francine Scull, Eleanor Park, Ann Judd; Kristin Hutchins (ex-officio)
Absent: Susan Allen, Terry Powers, Ellen Scull

The minutes of the May 23rd meeting were approved.

I Tree Business

The Tree Fund Appeal mailing is ready to go out. Eleanor will be in touch with Kris Harper regarding a tree inspection and work list. The Commission approved an amount of up to \$3,000 to combine with the Town's budgeted amount of \$2000 for tree work this fall. The status of the remaining elm tree at Pemetic school was discussed and Eleanor and Ann R. will be in touch with the Principal about sharing the expense for its removal. Ann R. also mentioned that the large Main Street elm just down the street from the Pemetic elm has a limb in serious need of pruning, so that will be added to the work list. Kristin mentioned that a committee was about to meet to discuss downtown parking needs and that the school driveway will be addressed at some point. Everyone agreed that a plan needs to be in place before any new replacement trees are installed, so we will wait to hear from the parking committee and school before proceeding with any planting.

II Treasurer's Report

Jane did not have all the information to make a written report for this meeting but did say that Beautification/Rhoades Park donations have done well this season. She is still waiting for some late bills on the Rhoades Park renovation and hopes to have final figures for the project by the end of the year.

III Charlotte Rhoades Park: Fall events, Spring Work

Ann J. reported that school field trips were taking place between September 6th – 13th, and there will be two more weddings this season. There has been a significant increase in visitation this summer. Ann J. will have a conversation with the Town Manager about potentially paving the bottom of the driveway to control storm washout. She will also talk to the TM about requesting swings to be purchased for next season. The "Open House" in late June was a great success as a free community event; Ann suggested, and the Commission agreed that it would be a nice thing to do again next year at the end of June. Ann is also looking for volunteers to be at the Park afternoons to mind the barn (after the paid docents have left for the day) to allow visitors to see the Monarch exhibit. Francine offered to help.

IV Deer on MDI

Francine has been clipping articles for many months about deer incidents affecting public safety; she will give us a report on her findings at the next meeting. The Commission asked Kristin about bringing the deer population issue to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. This generated a discussion that brought a suggestion to include a straw poll of sorts in the next Town Newsletter to ask residents to respond to the question "Do you think that the Deer Population is an issue that needs to be addressed by the Town?". If the Selectmen perceive that residents are indeed concerned, they will be more likely to look at the problem.

NEXT MEETING: week of October 14th - TBD